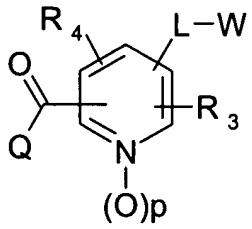
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Original): A compound of formula I

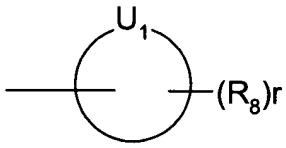


(I),

wherein

L is either a direct bond, an -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -SO_2-, -N(R_{5a})-, -SO_2N(R_{5b})-, –N(R_{5b})SO_2-, -C(O)N(R_{5c})- or –N(R_{5c})C(O)- bridge, or a C_1-C_4alkylene, C_2-C_4alkenylene or C_2-C_4alkynylene chain which may be mono- or poly-substituted by R_5 and/or interrupted once or twice by an -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -SO_2-, –N(R_{5d})-, -SO_2N(R_{5e})-, –N(R_{5e})SO_2-, -C(O)N(R_{5f})- and/or -N(R_{5f})C(O)- bridge, and when two such bridges are present those bridges are separated at least by one carbon atom, and W is bonded to L by way of a carbon atom or a –N(R_{5e})SO_2- or -N(R_{5f})C(O)- bridge when the bridge L is bonded to the nitrogen atom of W;

W is a 4- to 7-membered, saturated, partially saturated or unsaturated ring system U



(U),

which contains a ring element U_1, and may contain from one to four further ring nitrogen atoms, and/or two further ring oxygen atoms, and/or two further ring sulfur atoms and/or one or two further ring elements U_2, and the ring system U may be mono- or poly-substituted at a saturated or unsaturated ring carbon atom and/or at a ring nitrogen atom by a group R_8, and two substituents R_8 together are a further fused-on or spirocyclic 3- to 7-membered ring system which may be unsaturated, partially saturated or fully saturated and may in turn be substituted by one or more groups R_{8a} and/or interrupted once or twice by a ring element -O-, -S-, -N(R_{8b})- and/or –C(=O)-; and

U_1 and U_2 are each independently of the other(s) -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, -C(=NR_6)-, -(N=O)-, -S(=O)- or -SO_2-;

R_3 and R_4 are each independently of the other C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkyl, hydrogen, hydroxy, mercapto, halogen, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkoxy,

C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_3alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_3alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_3haloalkylthio, C_1-C_3haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_3haloalkylsulfonyl or C_1-C_3alkylsulfonyloxy;

R_5 is halogen, C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_3alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_3alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkyl or C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkoxy;

R_{5a}, R_{5b} and R_{5e} are independently hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6alkenyl, C_3-C_6alkynyl or C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkyl;

R_{5d} is hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6alkenyl, C_3-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkyl, benzyl, cyano, formyl, C_1-C_4alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4alkylsulfonyl or phenylsulfonyl, it being possible for the phenyl-containing groups to be substituted by R_7;

R_{5c} and R_{5f} are each independently of the other hydrogen or C_1-C_3alkyl;

R_6 is C_1-C_6alkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy, cyano or nitro;

R_7 is halogen, C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, cyano or nitro;

each R_8 independently is hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_3-C_6alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6alkynyloxy, C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkoxy, mercapto, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyloxy, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfonyloxy, C_3-C_6alkenylthio, C_3-C_6alkynylthio, amino, C_1-C_6alkylamino, di(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkyl, formyl, C_1-C_4alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4alkylthiocarbonyl, carboxy, cyano, carbamoyl, phenyl, benzyl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl, it being possible for the phenyl, benzyl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl groups to be mono- or poly-substituted by R_{7a};

each R_{7a} independently is halogen, C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, cyano or nitro;

each R_{8a} independently is halogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_3-C_6alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6alkynyloxy, mercapto, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_4alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl, cyano or nitro;

R_{8b} is hydrogen, C_1-C_3alkyl, C_3-C_6alkenyl, C_3-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkyl or benzyl, it being possible for the phenyl group to be substituted by R_{7b};

R_{7b} is halogen, C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, cyano or nitro;

p is 0 or 1;

r is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

with the provisos that

a) R_8 and R_{8a} as halogen or hydrogenmercapto cannot be bonded to a nitrogen atom,

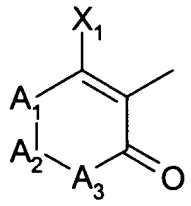
b) U_1 as -C(=O)- or -C(=S)- does not form a tautomeric form with a substituent R_8 as hydrogen when the radical W is bonded to the pyridyl group by way of a C_1-C_4alkylene, C_2-C_4alkenylene or C_2-C_4alkynylene chain L that is interrupted by -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, $-SO_2$-, $-N(R_{5d})$-, $-SO_2N(R_{5e})$- or $-N(R_{5e})SO_2$-,

c) U_1 as -C(=S)- does not form a tautomeric form with a substituent R_8 as hydrogen when the radical W is bonded to the pyridyl group by way of a –CH=CH- or -C≡C- bridge L or by way of a C_1-C_4alkylene chain L that is interrupted by -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, $-SO_2$- or $-N(C_1$-C_4alkyl)-,

d) U_1 as -C(=S)- or $-C(=NR_6)$- wherein R_6 is C_1-C_6alkyl or C_1-C_6alkoxy does not form a tautomeric form with a substituent R_8 as hydrogen when the radical W is bonded to the pyridyl group directly or by way of a C_1-C_4alkylene chain L;

either

Q is a group Q_1



(Q_1),

wherein

A_1 is $C(R_{11}R_{12})$ or NR_{13};

A_2 is $C(R_{14}R_{15})_m$, C(O), oxygen, NR_{16} or $S(O)_q$;

A_3 is $C(R_{17}R_{18})$ or NR_{19};

with the proviso that A_2 is other than $S(O)_q$ when A_1 is NR_{13} and/or A_3 is NR_{19};

X_1 is hydroxy, O^-M^+, wherein M^+ is a metal cation or an ammonium cation; halogen or $S(O)_nR_9$,

wherein

m is 1 or 2;

q, n and k are each independently of the others 0, 1 or 2;

R_9 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_2-C_{12}alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}alkynyl, C_3-C_{12}allenyl, C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl, C_5-C_{12}cycloalkenyl, R_{10}-C_1-C_{12}alkylene or R_{10}-C_2-C_{12}alkenylene, wherein the alkylene or alkenylene chain may be

interrupted by -O-, -$S(O)_k$- and/or -C(O)- and/or mono- to penta-substituted by R_{20}; or phenyl, which may be mono- to penta-substituted by R_{7c};

R_{7c} is halogen, C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, cyano or nitro;

R_{10} is halogen, cyano, rhodano, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_2-C_6alkenyloxy, C_2-C_6alkynyloxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_2-C_6alkenylthio, C_2-C_6alkynylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyloxy, phenylsulfonyloxy, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyloxy, benzoyloxy, C_1-C_4alkoxy-carbonyloxy, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, aminocarbonyl, C_1-C_4alkyl-aminocarbonyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenoxy, phenylthio, phenylsulfinyl or phenylsulfonyl; it being possible for the phenyl-containing groups in turn to be substituted by R_{7d};

R_{7d} is halogen, C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, cyano or nitro;

R_{20} is hydroxy, halogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, cyano, carbamoyl, carboxy, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl or phenyl; it being possible for phenyl to be substituted by R_{7e};

R_{7e} is halogen, C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, cyano or nitro;

R_{11} and R_{17} are each independently of the other hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkylthio, C_1-C_4alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_4alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_4alkenyloxy, C_3-C_4alkynyloxy, hydroxy-C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkylsulfonyloxy-C_1-C_4alkyl, halogen, cyano or nitro;

or, when A_2 is $C(R_{14}R_{15})_m$, R_{17} together with R_{11} forms a direct bond or a C_1-C_3alkylene bridge;

R_{12} and R_{18} are each independently of the other hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl or C_1-C_4alkylthio, C_1-C_4alkylsulfinyl or C_1-C_4alkylsulfonyl;

or R_{12} together with R_{11}, and/or R_{18} together with R_{17} form a C_2-C_5alkylene chain which may be interrupted by -O-, -C(O)-, -O- and -C(O)- or -$S(O)_t$-;

R_{13} and R_{19} are each independently of the other hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4haloalkyl, C_3-C_4alkenyl, C_3-C_4alkynyl or C_1-C_4alkoxy;

R_{14} is hydrogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4haloalkyl, C_1-C_3hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy-C_1-C_3-alkyl, C_1-C_4alkylthio-C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_4alkylcarbonyloxy-C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_4alkylsulfonyloxy-C_1-C_3alkyl, tosyloxy-C_1-C_3alkyl, di(C_1-C_4alkoxy)-C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl, C_3-C_5-oxacycloalkyl, C_3-C_5thiacycloalkyl, C_3-C_4dioxacycloalkyl, C_3-C_4dithiacycloalkyl, C_3-C_4oxathiacycloalkyl, formyl, C_1-C_4alkoxyiminomethyl, carbamoyl, C_1-C_4alkylaminocarbonyl or di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)aminocarbonyl;

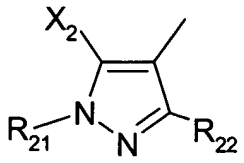
or R_{14} together with R_{11}, R_{12}, R_{13}, R_{15}, R_{17}, R_{18} or R_{19} or, when m is 2, also together with R_{14} forms a direct bond or a C_1-C_4alkylene bridge;

R_{15} is hydrogen, C_1-C_3alkyl or C_1-C_3haloalkyl;

R_{16} is hydrogen, C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4alkylcarbonyl or N,N-di(C_1-C_4alkyl)aminocarbonyl;

or

Q is a group Q_2



(Q_2),

wherein

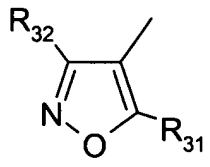
R_{21} and R_{22} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl;

X_2 is hydroxy, O^-M^+, wherein M^+ is an alkali metal cation or ammonium cation; halogen, C_1-C_{12}alkylsulfonyloxy, C_1-C_{12}alkylthio, C_1-C_{12}alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_{12}alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_{12}haloalkylthio, C_1-C_{12}haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_{12}haloalkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_3-C_{12}alkenylthio, C_3-C_{12}alkenylsulfinyl, C_3-C_{12}alkenylsulfonyl, C_3-C_{12}alkynylthio, C_3-C_{12}alkynylsulfinyl, C_3-C_{12}alkynylsulfonyl, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_4alkylthio, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_4alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_4alkylsulfonyl, benzyloxy or phenylcarbonylmethoxy; it being possible for the phenyl-containing groups to be substituted by R_{7f};

R_{7f} is halogen, C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, cyano or nitro;

or

Q is a group Q_3



(Q_3),

wherein

R_{31} is C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl or halo-substituted C_3-C_6cycloalkyl;

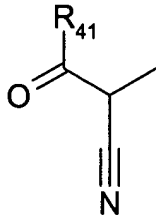
R_{32} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl, carboxy or a group $S(O)_sR_{33}$;

R_{33} is C_1-C_6alkyl or C_1-C_3alkylene, which may be substituted by halogen, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_2-C_3alkenyl or by C_2-C_3alkynyl; and

s is 0, 1 or 2;

or

Q is a group Q_4



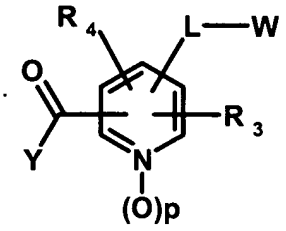
(Q_4),

wherein

R_{41} is C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl or halo-substituted C_3-C_6cycloalkyl;

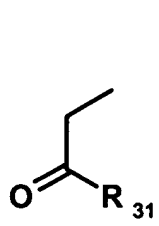
or an agrochemically acceptable salt or any stereoisomer or tautomer of a compound of formula I.

Claim 2 (Original): A compound of formula II

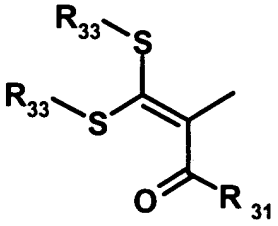


(II),

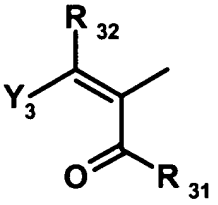
wherein Y is chlorine, cyano, hydroxy, C_1-C_4alkoxy, benzyloxy, phenoxy, allyloxy, a group



(Ya),



(Yb)



(Yc),

or a group Q_0, wherein Q_0 is accordingly a group Q linked to oxygen and Q, L, U_1, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_{31}, R_{32}, R_{33} and p are as defined for formula I in claim 1.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A herbicidal and plant-growth-inhibiting composition, which comprises a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula I, according to claim 1, on an inert carrier.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method of controlling undesired plant growth, which comprises applying a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula I, according to claim 1, or of a composition comprising such a compound, to the plants or to the locus thereof.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method of inhibiting plant growth, which comprises applying a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula I, according to claim 1, or of a composition comprising such a compound, to the plants or to the locus thereof.